

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. An image forming apparatus for forming an image based on image data inputted from an arbitrary image output apparatus, the image forming apparatus performing:

a judging process of judging whether identification information which identifies the image output apparatus which outputted the image data has been inputted together with the image data, and

an image formation process is performed to form an image based on the image data only when the identification information has been inputted together with the image data.

2. The image forming apparatus of claim 1, wherein the judging process is performed to judge whether identification information which is a piece of data different from the image data has been inputted as an attachment to the image data.

3. The image forming apparatus of claim 1, wherein the judging process is performed to judge whether the identification information is included as part of the inputted image data.

4. The image forming apparatus of claim 1, wherein the image formation process is performed to form an image based on the image data on a portion of which image data of an identification

pattern representing the identification information is superimposed.

5. ~~The image forming apparatus of claim 4, wherein when the~~
identification information which identifies the image output
apparatus is inputted as a piece of data which is different from
the image data and an attachment thereto, an image of an
identification pattern representing the identification
information is created and the created image is superimposed
on a portion of the image formed based on the inputted image
data.

6. The image forming apparatus of claim 4, wherein a further
process is performed in which an image of an identification
pattern representing identification information which
identifies the image forming apparatus itself is created and
the created image is superimposed on a portion of the image
formed based on the inputted image data.

7. ~~The image forming apparatus of claim 4, wherein the image~~
formation process is performed to superimpose the image of the
identification pattern with reduced visibility on a portion of
the image formed based on the inputted image data.